

WCGS NEWS  
MAY 1996

MAY MEETING

May 19, 3 O'Clock at Washington County Library. Program Chairman Virginia Haire announces that we will have on display, and discuss, the books and film purchased, to date, with our Grant funds. About 20 titles are now on hand. At the meeting, these items will be officially presented to the Washington County Library. A list of titles will appear in the June NEWS.

All members are urged to attend this meeting. We are extending a cordial invitation to our Librarian, the Staff and Trustees, and Town and County officials.

CONCORD HOMECOMING

The Editor most sincerely regrets that the HOMECOMING was not announced in the last NEWS. Shirleyann "got it in" in ample time; my fault, entirely. We make belated amends by printing the "Invitation", in its entirety, in this issue.

With Harry Thompson as speaker, AND dinner on the ground, its bound to be a great gathering. Our best wishes for fair weather and a dearth of biting flies.

WORKSHOP AT CHOWAN

The Family Heritage Workshop at Shepard-Pruden Library, April 26 & 27, was one of the best. We appreciate Mrs. Gene Roth's calling it to our attention, and applaud Librarian Rosalie Boyd's gracious hosting. All speakers, Elizabeth Smith, of ECU's Joyner Library, Mary Ann Coffey, Harry Thompson, and Mrs Roth, made excellent presentations.

Harry displayed several of WCGS's publications, and made kind remarks

relative to our efforts in historical research.

It was a real pleasure to see two of our old acquaintances at the Workshop. June Thomas, our Society's first president, was most cordial, and inquired of the Society...and many of our members. I was pleased to report that none of us have become instant ancestors.

Susanne Martin was there with her boss, Mrs. Smith. Susanne is now employed in Preservation & Conservation at Joyner Library. We congratulate Susanne upon her new position, and "Joyner" upon having acquired her services.

Susanne, our Charter Members recall, was our Librarian in the late 80's and early '90s, and was a prime mover in the founding of our Society. The foundation of WCGS's firm support of WCL's North Carolina Collection was laid during her tenure here.

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#### DIRECTORS

At the regular April meeting, Loretta Phelps was elected to the Board of Directors, and Vernon Everett re-elected. These two, and A.B. Davenport, Barbara Revels, and Lawrence Swain, now make up the Board. Russell Tyson serves as a non-voting member by virtue of being our immediate Past-President.

#### JOYNER LIBRARY

At our last meeting, we discussed plans for our President to contact the ECU Library and explore avenues of mutual support. Happily, following a pleasant conversation with Mrs. Smith and Susanne at Chowan, we have had a letter from Mr. Maurice York, North Carolina Librarian, Joyner Library. Mr. York states that he "would welcome the opportunity to develop some kind of working relationship", and makes several suggestions. I shall contact Mr. York in the very near future, and avail ourselves of his kind invitation to meet. I will keep you posted.

AUGUST JOURNAL

Upwards of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the August manuscript is in hand, and will go to our typist next week. Please get your articles to us ASAP. This is the first time we have had a "head-start" on our publication date----let's not get complacent!

MAPPING

some members have expressed interest in learning to draw maps from the descriptions found in old deeds. We tried a "hands-on" session at a recent monthly meeting, and learned that that's not the time to do it. Some few mapping.....most others "left out". So, if you want a short course in "beginners" mapping, contact Virginia, Loretta, or Ed. We'll arrange a session some afternoon or evening. It can be fun!

SIR WALTER

We called on Meredith Saunders recently for help on a Journal article. She delved into her mother's scrapbook, and found just what we needed. "Miss Laura" Johnston taught music for many years. In addition to being a lover and teacher of music, she was a lover and collector of history--especially local history--, and had a keen sense of humor.

On the reverse of the information that helped us with the Journal was the following:

## New Light on Sir Walter

A teacher asked the members of a class:"Who was Sir Walter Raleigh and for what event is he best known?"

One pupil answered thus:"Sir Walter Raleigh was a English courtier and statesman who sent Colombus to America. He is best known, however, for his gallantry to a lady in distress. He was walking down the streets of London one day and met Lady Godiva riding upon a milk-white charger entirely nude except for her beautiful golden hair. In spite of the laughter and jeers of

the populists, Sir Walter walked out to the poor lady and gallantly handed her his beautiful courtier's cloak, bowing deeply and saying : 'Honi soit mal y pense,' which being interpreted means! "Thy need is greater than mine.' Lady Godiva accepted the cloak and put it around her, murmuring gratefully: ' Mon Dieu et mon droit,' meaning: 'My God, you are right! ' "

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#### THE LAWS OF GENEALOGY

These have been in so many journals and newsletters of so many organizations that we don't know who to "credit".

- The will you need is in the safe on board the Titanic.
- Copies of old newspapers have holes which occur only on last names.
- Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.
- The keeper of the vital records you need will have just been insulted by another genealogist.

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#### From TYRRELL COUNTY COURT MINUTES

August 1768

Personally appeared Penelope Daly orphan of John Daly and of her own free will chose Richard Brownrigg of Chowan County guardian for her person and estate.

Captain Henry Harrison's Negro Carolina was granted leave to hunt on his plantation with gun

2 shillings tax (was levied) on each taxable person for and towards the contingency charges of the county.

QUERIES

I'm writing to see if I can get info regarding John Lloyd SPRUILL and wife Ella(Ellora)Phelps Spruill family from Creswell. They had sons Eli Caswell(was in army) and Charlie Lee , and daug Rose, Virginia, Olean, Iona, and Dorothy(d. age 27, about 40 years ago. John Lloyd had brothers in army.

Jean Spruill: 5117 Cheviot Rd., Greensboro, NC 27455

Need info in reference to William Forbes, who was first Leacon of Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church(Pasquotank County) abt 1850. Born 21 Feb. 1787 in Camden County, married to Catherine Mandeville 1813 in Camden. William died 5 Mar. 1854. Catherine was b. 4 June 1793; d. 18 Mar. 1871. William's parents: William and Thamer Gregory Forbes.

Particularly need info. on James Forbes, son of above. Born 10 Feb. 1834, married Sarah Elizabeth Whitehurst 17 Oct. 1855, d. 18 May 1911.

Richard E. Ball, Jr.: 16855 W. Bernardo Tr., Suite 316

Rancho Bernardo, CA 92127

Need exact location of Back Landing(site of Tyrrell Courthouse). Location of Bark("Barked"; "Marked")Poplar Swamp. Location of "Germantown" (eastern Skinnersville of western Scuppernong Twp., Washington County).

Editor: WCGS, POB 567, Plymouth, NC 27962

Tyrrell bond, 5 July, 1790, indicates that "Joseph Phelps, Esq." married Amelia Norman. Probably a "May-December" marriage(and Joseph's second), as Joseph had served on Tyrrell bench with Amelia's father, Nehemiah Norman(d. 1785). Did children result from this union? Names?

Ed Norman: POB 754, Plymouth, NC 27962

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MOUNTAIN HILL

Our thanks to fellow-member Phyllis Spruill Davenport for the following record of Mountain Hill Cemetery. At the risk of "fragmenting" her contribution, we are saving her poignant story of little Julian Reid Spruill for the August JOURNAL.

Mountain Hill Cemetery, Cherry, N. C.

Mary J. Edwards	1852 - 1938
W. C. Chaplin	1850 - 1932
Nancy Chaplin	Feb. 1829 - Feb. 1893
W. H. Chaplin	3/13/1886 - 11/27/1905
Annie Chaplin	8/18/1882 - 8/15/1903
Alice (Spruill) Chaplin	3/16/1864 - 2/11/19007 (dau. of Carney Spruill & Carrie Ann Swain)
Dorcas Chaplin (Nooney)	4/1848 - 8/14/1898 (wife of Jesse Nooney)
Nancy Phelps	6/2/1789 - 11/11/1852 (wife of Noah Phelps)
Noah N. Phelps	8/18/1784 - 9/13/1855
Pattie Chaplin	1867 - 1936
H. W. Spruill	8/13/1875 - 7/2/1927 (Haywood "Woody")
Dora A. Edwards Spruill	10/1/1879 - 9/24/1905 (wife of H. W. Spruill)
Joseph T. Spruill	4/22/1878 - 10/30/1935
Devella Phelps	6/13/1901 - 11/29/1925 (wife of Joseph Phelps)
Adrain E. Phelps	3/1930 - 5/1940
Mary Spruill	7/25/1908 - 7/30/1909
Alethia E. Ambrose	3/1877 - 7/1934 (dau. of William Warren Spruill)
Mary D. Sheahan	10/25/1829 - 1902
Melissa E. Barnes	9/1902 - 10/5/1906
Beatrice Ambrose	1898 - 1930
Lucile Edwards	1916 - 1918 (dau. of H. Jack & Ida Edwards)
Abram H. Spear	9/1874 - 1934
Kitty G. Spear	11/1888 - (wife of Abram H. Spear)
Levi Jacob Spear	1875 - 1942
Joseph Alexander Spruill	1928 - 1959
Demetrius M. Spruill	8/ 20/ 1856 - 4/10/1927 (Meddie)
James W. Spruill	1874 - 1934
Martha Jane (Spear) Spruill	1868 - 1943
Ann Matilda Phelps	1850 - 1851 (8 mos. 5 days)
Claudia Virginia Spear	11/8/1870 -
Mary Ann Burgese	1864 - 1923
Matilda A. Spear	1860 - 1913 (married Meddie Spruill)
Charles Leo Barnes	3/1932 - 11/1932
James Ainsley	11/1845 - 10/1908
Carolina Ainsley	1852 - 1923 (wife of James Ainsley)
Nancy Matilda Phelps	1854 - 1855
Eli F. Spruill	1888 - 1936
Eli J. Spruill	1845 - 1912 (married Laura Davenport)
Sarah F. Spear (wife of C. J. Spear - dau. of Levi Hassell)	

William Warren Spruill 9/11/1851 - 7/14/1927  
Lucy Ann Ambrose Spruill 2/29/1856 - 1/4/1928  
Margaret Ann Spruill 2/2/1931 - 12/10/1931  
Julian Reid Spruill 10/9/1920 - 6/28/1922 (son of Dewey S. & Emma Lucas Spruill)

Annie Kiah Spruill 12/10/1863 - 4/3/1926 (this inform. from Veronica Haskett)  
Jackson Hezekiah "Kye" Spruill 2/15/1861 - 11/29/1929

Eugene Spruill 3/1912 - 4/1914

NO MARKER;  
Information from Wendell Spruill:  
Vivian Spruill  
Jacob Woodley  
Ann Woodley

Levi Phelps (inform. from Bobby Spruill)

## **HOMECOMING**

# **Concord Primitive Baptist Church**

*Sponsored by:*

*Concord Primitive Baptist Church Preservation Society, Inc.*

*Saturday - 25 May 1996 - 11 am*

## **Speaker:**

**HARRY E. THOMPSON**

*Curator - Port O'Plymouth Museum, Washington County*

*Chairman - Historic Hope Foundation, Bertie County*

*Topic:*

**"Concord Ancestors:**

**Choosing Sides in the War Between the States"**

# **INVITATION**

*Bring food basket to share for old-fashioned dinner-on-the-ground*

*Enjoy good singing, good fellowship, good food and*

*You just might encounter a new branch of your family tree!*

*Concord Meeting House is located at the intersection of Mt. Tabor and Cherry Roads  
about one and one-half miles from Creswell and is near the Olde Davenport House and  
Somerset State Historic Site and Pettigrew State Park*

*Can't be present this year? Show your support by mailing contributions to  
Doris Oliver, Treasurer, P O Box 115, Creswell NC 27928*

*HELP SUPPORT CONTINUED PRESERVATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY'S ONLY KNOWN REMAINING PRIMITIVE BAPTIST  
MEETING HOUSE WHICH HAS NEVER KNOWN MODERN AMENITIES SUCH AS ELECTRICITY AND PLUMBING  
(There are still outhouses on the premises)*





Portion of  
U.S. COAST SURVEY  
1865

Washington County  
Genealogical Society,  
P.O. Box 567,  
Plymouth, NC 27962-0567